

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 10, 2010 has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 4, 7-11, 22, 27-31, and 34-37 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 7-11, 22, 27-31, and 34-37 have been withdrawn from consideration as allegedly being dedicated to a non-elected invention. The Examiner asserts that the newly claimed invention functions in a completely different manner than the original invention and would require a new search that was not previously required. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion.

In particular, the current claims are clearly related to the claims entered in the Amendment filed on August 13, 2009. More specifically, current independent Claims 1 and 22 are similar to independent Claims 1 and 22 entered and examined on the merits in the Amendment filed on August 13, 2009. For example, current independent Claim 1 recites:

[a] method of performing service diagnostics on appliances, the method comprising: receiving, from a first appliance of a plurality of appliances, a request to perform a service diagnosis of at least one appliance of the plurality of appliances . . . performing a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance using commands specific to the at least one appliance that are obtained from a device information table . . . servicing the at least one appliance, said servicing comprising at least one of adjusting a characteristic of the at least one appliance and displaying to a technician the service diagnosis. (Emphasis added.)

Similarly, independent Claim 1 entered and examined on the merits in the Amendment filed on August 13, 2009 recites:

[a] method of performing service diagnostics on appliances, the method comprising: receiving a request to perform a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance through the diagnostic interface . . . performing a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance through the diagnostic interface using commands specific to the at least one appliance, the commands specific to the at least one appliance obtained from a device information table . . . servicing, by the diagnostic interface, the at least one appliance, said servicing comprising at least one of adjusting a characteristic of the at least one appliance and displaying to a technician the service diagnosis. (Emphasis added.)

Further, current independent Claim 22 recites:

[a] diagnostic system for providing access to service diagnostics on an appliance, said diagnostic system comprising: a plurality of appliances; a communication bus configured to be directly connected to said plurality of appliances, wherein said communication bus facilitates transmitting . . . a request to perform a service diagnosis of the least one appliance of said plurality of appliances via service diagnostics commands from a device information table; a microprocessor programmed to . . . permit transmission of the service diagnostics commands; and a dedicated appliance controller for receiving and executing the service diagnostics commands. (Emphasis added.)

Similarly, independent Claim 22 entered and examined on the merits in the Amendment filed on August 13, 2009 recites:

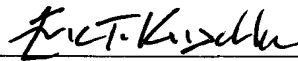
[a] diagnostic system for providing access to service diagnostics on an appliance, said diagnostic system comprising: a plurality of appliances; a diagnostic interface configured to be directly connected to said plurality of appliances . . . wherein said diagnostic interface facilitates accepting service diagnostics commands . . . the service diagnostics commands specific to said at least one appliance and obtained by said diagnostic interface from a device information table, a microprocessor programmed to . . . generate the service diagnostics commands . . . and a dedicated appliance controller for receiving and executing the service diagnostics commands. (Emphasis added.)

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that newly amended Claims 1 and 22, and dependent claims thereof, are **not** directed to an invention that functions in a completely different manner than the original invention. Rather, as set forth above, the newly amended claims are clearly related to the original claims presented for Examination.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric T. Krischke
Registration No. 42,769
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070